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AUSTIN MAN SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON ON CRACK COCAINE CHARGE

(AUSTIN, TEXAS) United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced today that 30-year-old **MELVIN DEAN CANADA, JR.**, of Austin, was sentenced to 292 months in federal prison after pleading guilty to possession with the intent to distribute over five grams of crack cocaine.

On May 31, 2002, Canada gave officers from the Bastrop County Constables Office consent to search his vehicle during a routine traffic stop. A search of the vehicle uncovered 20.5 grams of crack cocaine. During today's sentencing hearing, United States Senior District Judge Harry Lee Hudspeth determined that Canada was responsible for the distribution of slightly more than four kilograms of crack cocaine between October 2001 and May 2002.

"Today's lengthy sentence puts drug dealers on notice that there is a great risk of being caught and prosecuted and once you are, the consequences can be quite severe," stated United States Attorney Johnny Sutton.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Bastrop County Sheriff's Office. Assistant United States Attorney John Phinizy prosecuted this case on behalf of the Government.

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